

Presentation to the National Transportation Safety Board

Insurance Implications of Impaired Driving
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I. Impaired Driving and Insurance



- Impaired Driving by either alcohol or drugs is an issue of great concern to the insurance industry.
- Historically, the insurance industry has been a major supporter and partner of programs and organizations that help prevent injuries and deaths caused by impaired driving. It also sponsors the insurance funded Insurance Institute for Highway Safety which does cutting edge research and analysis on many aspects of auto and highway safety.
- Impaired driving has implications for auto, home and commercial insurance.
- Insurance provides very important financial reimbursement for the victims of impaired drivers. This includes damage to vehicles, property, medical bills and even funeral expenses.



Drivers are Legally Required to Purchase Auto Insurance

- If a person is legally allowed to drive, virtually all states require drivers to have auto liability coverage. This pays for the other driver's (and their passengers) medical, car repair and other costs.
- Liability insurance is compulsory in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Only New Hampshire does not have a compulsory auto insurance liability law. However, drivers in that state must show proof of financial security in the event the driver causes harm to others if there is an auto crash.
- The public generally supports mandatory liability insurance coverage.



Insurance Implications for Individuals Arrested for Impaired Driving

- Private insurance companies subject to state laws may charge more in insurance premiums for driver arrested for being intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. In most states, insurers are allowed to non-renew an existing policyholder or deny coverage to a person applying for insurance.
- Drivers will find they have less choice of insurance carriers and may need to purchase their auto liability insurance from an insurance carrier who specializes in high risk drivers or in state administered insurance plan.



Insurance Implications for Individuals Arrested for Impaired Driving

■ Those who can't find coverage with a private insurance carrier will have to purchase their insurance liability protection from what is known as the residual, shared or involuntary market. It makes basic insurance available to those legally allowed to drive but are considered to be too much of a high risk by the private insurance market. They have been set up by state regulators working with the insurance industry.

Nationally, the residual market's share of total cars insured was less than 1.0 percent in 2009, the latest annual data available.



The Insurance Mechanism Provides an Economic Deterrent

- Auto insurance is a highly competitive business and good drivers have a wide variety of insurance companies and policies to choose from. In fact, comparison shopping is one of the most effective ways to save money on auto insurance while getting an excellent policy.
- Those with a history of impaired driving will quite simply have much less choice of insurance carriers and will pay a lot more for insurance. In order to regain the opportunity to purchase auto insurance at a more competitive price they will need to have several years of accident-free driving.
- By charging more to impaired drivers, good drivers are not subsidizing dangerous drivers and hopefully providing an economic deterrent to impaired driving.

III. Social Host Liability



- Social host liability, the legal term for the criminal and civil responsibility of a person who furnishes liquor to a guest, can have a serious impact on party throwers.
- While a social host is not liable for injuries sustained by a drunken guest (as they are also negligent), the host *can* be held liable for third parties, and may even be liable for passengers of the guest who have been injured in their car.
- In fact, thirty-seven states have enacted laws or have case law that permit social hosts who serve liquor to people who subsequently are involved in crashes to be held liable for any injury or death. Some laws, however, may specify that the drinker must be obviously intoxicated. In some cases, the laws are only targeted at minors.

III. Social Host Liability

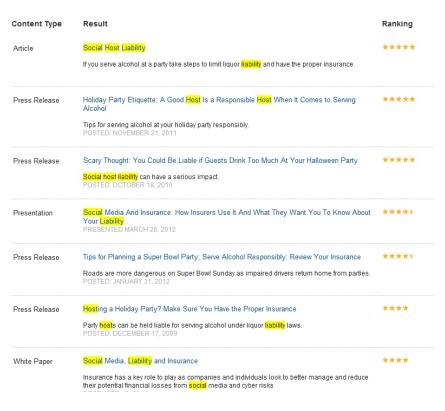


- Social host liability is a home insurance issue because many policies provide liability protection. This provides important financial help to the victim while providing an economic deterrent to being an irresponsible host. If a homeowner has been held liable for allowing a guest to drive home drunk, they will likely be charged more for home insurance
- A key message of the insurance industry is to be a responsible host. Individual insurance companies proactively provide information and tips on how to throw a fun party while preventing guests from driving home intoxicated.
- The I.I.I., as an industry funded organization, distributes information about being a responsible host before major holidays such as New Year's Eve and major events such the Super Bowl to the news media and via its social media network.

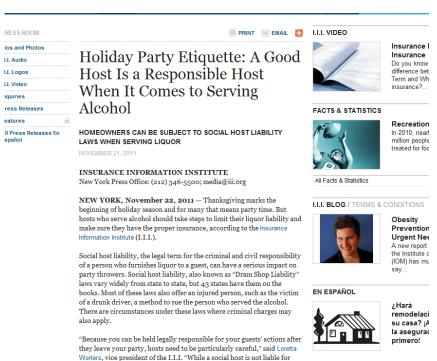
III. Social Host Liability



Recent News Releases



Thanksgiving as a News Hook



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IV. Commercial Servers of Alcohol



- Forty-three states and the District of Columbia have laws on the books or case law (law that comes about through a court ruling rather than an act of the legislature) that hold commercial servers of alcohol liable for the harm caused by their intoxicated patrons.
- Insurance companies who write insurance coverage for restaurants, bars and other places that sell alcohol offer a variety of educational programs and will sometimes provide insurance discounts to establishments that have implemented programs to prevent patrons from drunk driving.

Statutes or Court Cases Holding Alcohol Beverage Servers Liable



STATUTES OR COURT CASES HOLDING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVERS LIABLE

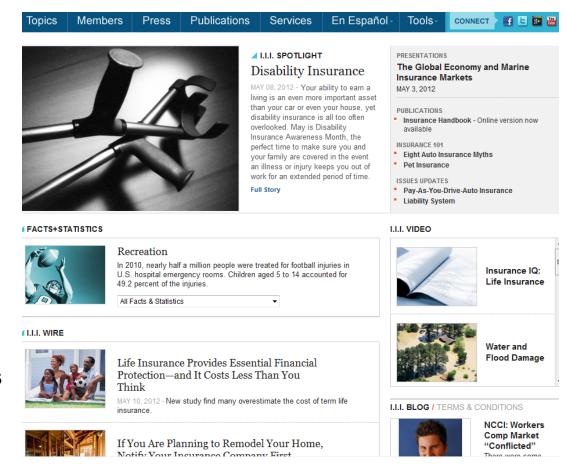
	Commercial servers		Social hosts			Commercial servers		Social hosts	
State	Statute (1)	Court (2)	Statute (3)	Court	State	Statute (1)	Court (2)	Statute (3)	Court
Alabama	X		X	X	Montana	X	X	X	
Alaska	X		Χ		Nebraska				
Arizona	Χ	X	X	Χ	Nevada			X (4)	
Arkansas	Χ	Χ			New Hampshire	Χ		Χ	X
California	X		X		New Jersey	Χ		Χ	Χ
Colorado	Χ	Χ	Χ		New Mexico	X		Χ	X
Connecticut	X	X		X	New York	X		X	
Delaware					North Carolina	X	Χ	X	X (4)
D.C.		X (4)			North Dakota	Χ		Χ	
Florida	X		Χ	Χ	Ohio	X	Χ	Χ	X (4)
Georgia	Χ		X		Oklahoma	Χ	Χ		
Hawaii		Χ			Oregon	X		X	
Idaho	Χ	X	X		Pennsylvania	X	X		X (4)
Illinois	X			Χ	Rhode Island	Χ			
Indiana	Χ	Χ	X	X	South Carolina	Χ	Χ	Χ	X (4)
Iowa	X	X	X	X (4)	South Dakota				
Kansas					Tennessee	Χ			
Kentucky	Χ	Χ		X (4)	Texas	X	Χ	Χ	X
Louisiana	X	X	X	X	Utah	Χ		Χ	Χ
Maine	X		X		Vermont	X		X	Χ
Maryland					Virginia				
Massachusetts	X	X	X	Χ	Washington	X	X	Χ	Χ
Michigan	Χ		X	X (4)	West Virginia	Χ	X (4)		
Minnesota	X		X	Χ	Wisconsin	Χ	X	Χ	Χ
Mississippi	Х	X	Х	Χ	Wyoming	Х		Χ	Х
Missouri	Χ								

V. I.I.I. Resources – www.iii.org



Public Information on I.I.I. Website

- Auto Safety Insurance Issues Update
- Compulsory AutoInsurance Issues Update
- Drunk Driving IssuesUpdate & Facts andStatistics
- ❖Residual Markets Issues Update
- Social Host Liability –
 Consumer Article





Questions?

Insurance Information Institute Online:

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Thank you for your time and your attention!

